

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 stand canceled.

Newly added claims 21-28 correspond to original claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13-15,
5 respectively, which were indicated as allowable.

The claims have been reviewed against newly cited Boyd et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2004/0231975. It is believed that the combinations set forth in the claims continue to be remain allowable over Boyd et al. '975. The Examiner is kindly asked to advise if further clarification of any of the combinations is deemed necessary or desirable.

10 Claim 21 corresponds to original claim 5. Claim 21 sets forth a combination for an apparatus for inhibiting the fouling of a submersible object (10), including a first coating (21) disposed on a first surface of an object (10) which is submersible, the first coating (21) comprising an electrically conductive polymer-based material, an electrode (22), and electrical current source (30) which is connectable in electrical communication with the first coating (21)
15 and the electrode (22), the electrode (22) being connectable in electrical communication with the electric current source (30) to form an electrical circuit including the first coating (21), the electric current source (30), the electrode (22), and water (below 12) in which both the electrode (22) and the first coating (21) are disposed, the electrically conductive polymer-based material comprising a nonconductive matrix with electrically conductive particles disposed therein, the
20 nonconductive polymer matrix material being vinyl ester.

Claim 22 corresponds to original claim 6. Claim 22 sets forth a combination for apparatus for inhibiting the fouling of a submersible object (10), including a first coating (21) disposed on a first surface of an object (10) which is submersible, the first coating (21) comprising an electrically conductive polymer-based material, an electrode (22), an electrical
25 current source (30) which is connectable in electrical communication with the first coating (21) and the electrode (22), the electrode (22) being connectable in electrical communication with the electric current source (30) to form an electrical circuit comprising the first coating (21), the electric current source (30), the electrode (22), and water (below 12) in which both the electrode (22) and the first coating (21) are disposed, wherein the electrically conductive polymer-based
30 material comprises a nonconductive polymer matrix with electrically conductive particles disposed therein, and wherein the conductive particles are graphite.

Claim 23 corresponds to original claim 8. Claim 23 sets forth a combination for apparatus for inhibiting the following of a submersible object (10), including a first coating (21) disposed on a first surface of an object (10) which is submersible, the first coating (21) comprising an electrically conductive polymer-based material, an electrode (22), an electrical current source (30) which is connectable in electrical communication with the first coating (21) and the electrode (22), the electrode (22) being connectable in electrical communication with the electric current source (30) to form an electrical circuit comprising the first coating (21), the electric current source (30), the electrode (22), and water (below 12) in which both the electrode (22) and the first coating (21) are disposed, wherein the electrically conductive polymer-based material comprises a nonconductive polymer matrix with electrically conductive particles disposed therein, and the matrix material is vinyl ester and the conductive particles are graphite.

Claim 24 corresponds to original claim 9. Claim 24 sets forth a combination for apparatus for inhibiting the following of a submersible object (10), including a first coating (21) disposed on a first surface of an object (10) which is submersible, the first coating (21) comprising an electrically conductive polymer-based material, an electrode (22), an electrical current source (30) which is connectable in electrical communication with the first coating (21) and the electrode (22), the electrode (22) being connectable in electrical communication with the electric current source (30) to form an electrical circuit including the first coating (21), the electric current source (30), the electrode (22), and water (below 12) in which both the electrode (22) and the first coating (21) are disposed, and further comprising a boat hull (10) comprising a fiberglass layer (54), a conductive layer (21), and an intermediate layer (50), the conductive layer (21) comprising the first coating (21).

Claim 25 corresponds to original claim 11. Claim 25 sets forth a combination for an apparatus for inhibiting the following of a submersible object (10), including a first coating (21) disposed on a first surface of an object (10) which is submersible, a first coating (21) comprising an electrically conductive polymer-based material, an electrode (22), an electrical current source (30) which is connectable in electrical communication with the first coating (21) and the electrode (22), the electrode (22) being connectable in electrical communication with the electric current source (30) to form an electrical circuit including the first coating (21), the electric current source (30), the electrode (22), and water (below 12) in which both the electrode (22) and the first coating (21) are disposed, wherein the electrically conductive polymer-based material

comprises a nonconductive polymer matrix with a first set of electrically conductive particles disposed therein, and wherein the electrode (22) comprises a second coating (22), the second coating (22) comprising the nonconductive polymer matrix with a second set of electrically conductive particles disposed therein, and further comprising a boat hull (10) having a starboard side (18) and a port side (16), the port side (16) of the hull (10) being at least partially covered by the first coating (21), the starboard side (18) of the hull (10) being at least partially covered by the second coating (22), the first and second coatings (21 and 22) being electrically insulated (24) from each other, and wherein the boat hull (10) has an inner fiberglass layer (54) and an intermediate layer (50), the first coating (21) being disposed on the port side (16) of the intermediate layer (50), the second coating (22) being disposed on the starboard side (18) of the intermediate layer (50).

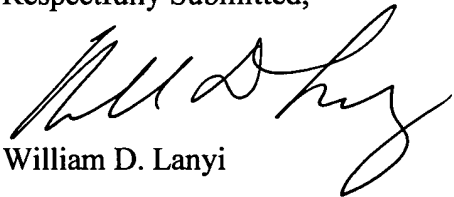
Claim 26 corresponds to original claim 13. Claim 26 sets forth a combination for apparatus for inhibiting the following of a submersible object (10), including a boat hull (10) having a port side (16) and a starboard side (18), the boat hull (10) including a structural supporting layer (54), a first coating layer (21) disposed on the port side (16) of the structural supporting layer (54), the first coating layer (21) comprising a first material having a second material suspended within the first material, the second material being electrically conductive, a second coating layer (22) disposed on the starboard side (18) of the structural supporting layer (54), the second coating layer (22) comprising the first material having the second material suspended within the first material, the first and second coating layers (21 and 22) being electrically separated (24) from each other, a source of current (30) connected in electrical communication with the first and second coating layers (21 and 22) to sequentially cause an electrical current to flow in a direction from the source of current (30) toward the first coating layer (21) and subsequently to cause the electrical current to flow in a direction from the source of current (30) toward the second coating layer (22), and further comprising an intermediate layer (50) disposed on the structural support layer (54), the first and second coating layers (21 and 22) being disposed on the intermediate layer (50).

Claim 27 corresponds to original claim 14. Claim 27 depends from claim 26 and defines a subcombination requiring that the intermediate layer (50) is a gel coat compound.

Claim 28 corresponds to original claim 15. Claim 28 depends from claim 27 and defines a subcombination requiring that the first and second coating layers (21 and 22) comprise graphite particles supported in a vinyl ester matrix.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance with claims 21-28, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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